



January 30, 2007

H.Res. 24 - Establishing the House Democracy Assistance Commission for the One Hundred Tenth Congress.

Floor Situation

H.Res. 24 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative David Price (D-NC) on January 4, 2007. By unanimous consent, the Committee agreed to seek consideration of H.Res. 24 under suspension of the rules.

H.Res. 24 is expected to be considered on January 30, 2007.

**Note: Former House Democracy Assistance Commission Chairman David Dreier (R-CA) strongly supports this legislation and is the primary original cosponsor.*

Background

On March 14, 2005 the House passed the House Democracy Assistance Commission Resolution (H.Res. 135) by a vote of 386 – 2 ([Roll no. 66](#)), creating a Commission to “strengthen democratic institutions by assisting parliaments in emerging democracies.” The Commission was designed to provide technical expertise to aid foreign parliaments in their efforts to enhance accountability, transparency, legislative independence, and government oversight.

The Commission has permitted Members, officers, and staff of the House of Representatives and congressional support agencies to advise the partnered parliaments.

The Commission makes recommendations to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) regarding any assistance that would prove useful to the partnered parliaments to improve the efficiency and transparency of their work.

The Commission was composed of 16 Members of the House of Representatives, consisting of 9 Members (including a Chairman) from the majority party appointed by the Speaker, and 7 members from the minority party appointed by the Minority Leader.

The House International Relations Committee was designated to support the activities of the Commission with its staff and resources.

The Commission has partnered with the Parliaments of: Afghanistan, Colombia, East Timor, Georgia, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, Macedonia, Mongolia, and Ukraine.

The Commission reports annually to the Speaker, Minority Leader, and appropriate committees on their activities, the results of their interactions with partner parliaments, and an assessment of how the selected parliaments can benefit from the Commission's assistance, and the level of need of the current partner parliaments for "material assistance."

Summary

H.Res. 24 reauthorizes the House Democracy Assistance Commission, reaffirming their mission and permitting the Commission to continue its work with its partner parliaments and to develop new partnerships.

H.Res. 24 enlarges the Commission from 16 to 20 House Members, which will consist of 11 Members (including the Chairman) from the majority party to be appointed by the Speaker, and 9 Members from the minority party to be appointed by the Minority Leader.

Staff Contact:

For questions or further information contact Matt Lakin at (202) 226-2302.